

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 134055
ORIGIN AF-10

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R 092231Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

S E C R E T STATE 134055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XA, US

SUBJECT: CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS: ISSUE NO. 23

REF.: VICTORIA 317

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AF'S CONTRIBUTION TO ISSUE NO. 23 OF
CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS PER YOUR REFERENCED REQUEST.
2. AF-COUP IN SEYCHELLES (CONFIDENTIAL)

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT MANCHAM'S ATTEND-
ANCE AT THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN LONDON, PRIME
MINISTER RENE'S POLITICAL FOLLOWERS SMOOTHLY EXECUTED A
COUP EARLY JUNE 5 IN THE EXOTIC ONE-YEAR-OLD INDIAN OCEAN
NATION. RENE'S PARTISANS, ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC RIFLES,
SEIZED THE POLICE ARMORIES, POLICE STATIONS AND OTHER
MAJOR INSTALLATIONS. FIVE PEOPLE WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED
AND FIVE BRITISH OFFICERS WITH THE LOCAL SECURITY SERVICES
HAVE BEEN SENT BACK TO THE UK. A CURFEW STILL REMAINS
PARTIALLY IN EFFECT, BUT THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS OPEN.

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NO AMERICANS WERE HARMED.

IN HIS FIRST SPEECH TO THE NATION AS PRESIDENT, RENE BLAMED
MANCHAM FOR TRYING TO PERPETUATE HIMSELF IN POWER AND FOR
CREATING A SITUATION IN WHICH THE SEYCHELLES WOULD HAVE
FOUND THEMSELVES "SLAVES OF THE CAPITALISTS" AND OF
FOREIGN COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH FURTHER LEFT POLITICALLY

THAN THE PRO-WESTERN MANCHAM, WITH WHOM HE SHARED THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, RENE HAS GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT HE WILL REMAIN IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND HONOR ALL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

US ACTIONS: WITHIN HOURS OF THE COUP RENE CALLED OUR CHARGE TO ASSURE US THAT OUR TRACKING STATION WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE OPERATION. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE CANCELLED, AT RENE'S REQUEST, A ROUTINE US NAVY SHIP VISIT (AS WELL AS A SCHEDULED P-3 OCEAN SURVEILLANCE FLIGHT), THE NEW LEADER OF THE 60,000 POPULATION COUNTRY HAS TOLD US HE HOPES THAT SHIP VISITS CAN RESUME SOON. WE ARE CURRENTLY CONSULTING WITH THE BRITISH ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION. ALTHOUGH THE FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE SEYCHELLES UNDER RENE IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR AT THIS POINT, IN THE LONG RUN HE IS LESS LIKELY TO BE COOPERATIVE WITH US THAN WAS MANCHAM. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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